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FOREIGN OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Washington 25, D.C.

Executive Secretary

5-7955

EB

On file USAID release instructions apply

JUL 16 1954

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I refer to your letter of July 5, 1954, forwarding a message received from Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson in Bern regarding recent conversations with a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross who indicated the Committee was hard-pressed for funds and would welcome financial assistance. Before leaving for Paris Mr. Stassen reviewed your letter and asked that the matter be looked into further.

Informal inquiries at the Department of State indicate that Mr. David deFraz, who is Assistant Executive Director of the ICRC, was in this country during April 1954. The purpose of his mission was to put before the appropriate officials of the United States Government a request of the ICRC to be reimbursed for services rendered in the Korean conflict in the amount of \$277,000. It is understood that formal memoranda on this subject were submitted by Mr. deFraz on behalf of the Committee to the Secretaries of Defense and State. Additionally, it is understood that Mr. deFraz had conversations with the appropriate officials in the Department of Defense concerning the matter. A decision has not yet been rendered.

Since the application of the ICRC for financial assistance is now pending before two other branches of the Government, it would seem inappropriate for FOA to intervene in the matter at this time. If you have not already done so, you may wish to communicate with the Secretaries of Defense and State concerning the additional information you have received on this subject. We appreciate your calling this information to our attention and have noted particularly the reference to the activities of the ICRC in the countries of Eastern Europe.

Sincerely yours,

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Acting Director, Foreign Operations Administration

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